

Please reject the NAB petition 04-160 concerning restricting local content by satellite radio such as XM. I wish to provide my input on the issue of XM satellite radio (and any other similar service) providing specific reporting of Traffic and Weather reports to major metro areas. I and my wife commute each day into Houston to our offices, and I have XM radio in my car. My wife does not have this service (yet). Various radio stations on both AM and FM channels also report the traffic and weather. Unfortunately, trying to catch a local station giving a traffic report is like betting at roulette. The stations usually provide reports about every 10 to 25 minutes, and these reports are by no means "timely". I have even called my wife to let her know about problems in her route because she has the same problem of finding a station when they happen to report traffic.

XM's reporting is on a dedicated channel, and when I tune in, I can normally hear the conditions for the part of Houston I travel through within a few minutes. This gives me time to take alternate routes as necessary, instead of finding out about traffic problems by driving into them.

I still listen to local broadcasts, but I really enjoy the opportunity and variety of the satellite radio.

The NAB should not be trying to get XM radio restricted, they should be trying to get local broadcasters to figure out how to compete. Otherwise, why not have the Weather Channel taken off cable, too!